

Beware of false feminists preaching transphobia

By insisting on a feminism that excludes transwomen, those gathered today at the Women's Declaration International-USA convention in San Francisco are aiding right-wing extremists whose very aim is to destroy feminism altogether.

Make no mistake about it, the majority of feminists are accepting of transpeople. But not the group of so-called "radical feminists" holding a convention inside the San Francisco Hilton today.

Most people who call themselves feminists agree about reproductive justice, including the right to legal and safe abortion. So do the attendees at the Women's Declaration International-USA convention inside this hotel. They also believe in stopping violence against women. We wholeheartedly agree!

But where we part ways is in their adamant exclusion of transwomen from being deserving of such rights. Not only would they deny transwomen human rights, they are engaging in a battle against them. Their attacks on transgender people reach conspiracy levels when they say transwomen try to turn themselves into women in order to infiltrate "women"-only spaces, like bathrooms and sports teams.

For decades, being gay or lesbian or an uppity female was considered a mental illness, yet these conventioners think it's ok to apply that pathology to transgender people. They are fringe activists who argue that advancements in transgender rights will come at the expense of women's rights. By arguing in this way, they are spinning off on a leftist-to-fascist trajectory. Point of fact: members of Women's Declaration International and Women's Liberation Front (WoLF) who are gathered here today purposely align with the extremist right wing. Some have appeared as sympathetic guests on Tucker Carlson's FOX-TV show and spoken on panels of the extremist right-wing Heritage Foundation. They have pushed for anti-trans legislation, submitted amicus briefs supporting transphobic judicial cases, and worked to elect Republicans.

In contrast, we in the National Mobilization for Reproductive Justice stand for:

- **the total liberation of sexual minorities**
- **outlawing discrimination against them**

- ending police harassment and violence against LGBTQ people
- reversing discriminatory immigration laws
- ending vicious media portrayals

Transgender people — particularly transgender women of color — continue to be among the most marginalized communities in this country. The American Medical Association has called the pattern of violence against them epidemic.

Transphobia comes from a minority of women in the feminist community but unfortunately it's a rather noisy minority. Their prejudice does not have any place in our struggle. Feminism is supposed to be an ideology of transcending gender oppression and eliminating the strict binary definition of gender, not reinforcing it. As intersectional feminists we are against bigotry in all forms and respect everyone's right to biological autonomy.

--September 16, 2023

Sources

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